

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00401 121940Z

65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8600

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

CINCEUR

USIA WASHDC

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FOR POLADS

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00401 121940Z

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, UN, CH, AO, XF

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - JANUARY 10-12

1. SUMMARY:

--COMMENT ON U.S. AND DETENTE IS EXTENSIVE
AND MOST FAVORABLE IN QUITE SOME TIME;
--SOUTH AFRICA REMAINS PRINCIPAL TARGET IN
ANGOLA COVERAGE; LACK OF UNITY AT OAU SUMMIT IS
READILY APPARENT (SEPTTEL);

--GROMYKO IN TOKYO IS QUOTED AS ADVISING
CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND LETTING TIME SOLVE
PROBLEMS;

--GOVERNMENT CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF CHOU
ARE SENT TO PRC;

--MIDDLE EAST COVERAGE CONCENTRATES ON
SOVIETS' JAN 10 DECLARATION, BUT UPCOMING UNSC
DEBATE ALSO MERITS ATTENTION.

2. U.S./DETENTE. ALTHOUGH THE U.S. CONTINUES TO TAKE
VERY HARD MEDIA KNOCKS ON ANGOLA AND ITALY--WITH CIA
INVOLVEMENT HIGHLIGHTED--WEEKEND COMMENTARY ON GENERAL
ISSUE OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR DETENTE IS EXTENSIVE, AND
MOST FAVORABLE WE HAVE SEEN IN MONTHS. PRAVDA'S
AUTHORITATIVE INTERNATIONAL WEEK (JAN 11 BY
YULIY YAKHONTOV) MADES DETENTE (AND SALT) ITS
CENTERPIECE; PRAVDA (JAN 10) FEATURES REPORT FROM
MADISON, WISCONSIN, BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT A.
TOLKUNOV EVIDENTLY DESIGNED TO SHOW THERE HAS BEEN
A SEA-CHANGE IN AMERICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD SOVIET UNION
IN PAST 20 YEARS (TITLE IS "THE WORLD CHANGES FOR THE
BETTER"); AND PRAVDA (JAN 11) ALSO CARRIES LONG TASS
PIECE FROM WASHINGTON ON NBC- YEAR-END FOREIGN POLICY
WRAPUP WHICH IS ALMOST UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE AND
DEFINITELY UPBEAT ON DETENTE'S PROSPECTS IN U.S. PUBLIC
OPINION. COMMON THEME OF ALL COMMENTARIES IS THAT
ENEMIES OF DETENTE ARE ON THE DEFENSIVE.

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 00401 121940Z

3. JAPAN. THE PRESS HAS CARRIED DAILY REPORTS ON
GROMYKO'S ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN. THE FULLEST REPORT
THUS FAR WAS IZVESTIYA'S ACCOUNT (JAN 10) OF THE
EXCHANGE OF REMARKS AT MILYAZAWA'S WELCOMING BANQUET
ON JAN 9. GROMYKO, ACCORDING TO IZVESTIYA, PRAISED
THOSE JAPANESE WHO MOVED TO RESTORE DIPLOMATIC RELA-
TIONS TWENTY YEARS AGO, SAID THAT ECONOMIC RELATIONS
WERE GOOD BUT COULD BE BETTER, ADVISED THAT REMAINING

DIFFERENCES "REQUIRE TIME AND PATIENCE", AND DENOUNCED THOSE "FORCES WHICH COME OUT AGAINST DETENTE" AND SEEK TO HAMPER BETTER SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS.

4. CHINA. ZIVESTIYA (JAN 10) CARRIED THE BRIEF CONDOLENCE MESSAGE FROM THE SOVIET COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO THE PRC STATE COUNCIL ON THE DEATH OF PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI. THE MESSAGE WAS NEARLY IDENTICAL TO THAT SENT BY MOSCOW ON THE DEATH OF TUNG PI-WU IN APRIL 1975 (IZVESTIYA, APRIL 5, 1975).

5. MIDDLE EAST. PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA BOTH FRONTPAGE (JAN 10) THE SOVIET UNION'S STATEMENT OF ITS POSITION PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE UNSC DEBATE (SEPTTEL). PRAVDA (JAN 11) BEGINS REPLAYING INTERNATIONAL COMMENT ON MOSCOW'S DECLARATION, WITH STRESS ON NEED TO RECONVENE THE GENEVA MEPC, BUT INCLUDING THE EIG AT "SUPPORTERS" OF ISRAEL (READ U.S.) REPEATING AND MOSCOW'S THREE POINT "PEACE PLAN." PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL WEEK LEADS WITH A DISCUSSION OF THE UNSC DEBATE, HIGHLIGHTING PLO PARTICIPATION AND THE ISRAELI BOYCOTT. THE AUTHOR CLAIMS THAT ALLON SOUGHT A BROAD U.S. ASSURANCE OF A VETO AGAINST ANY ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION, DISCUSSES THE USSR'S DECLARATION OF THE PREVIOUS DAY, AND REPEATS THE NEED FOR A RECONVENED GENEVA MEPC WITH PLO PARTICIPATION. PRAVDA (JAN 12) CONTINUES TO REPLY FOREIGN COMMENTARY ON MOSCOW'S JAN 10 DECLARATION. IZVESTIYA (JAN 9) CARRIES AN EDITORIAL BY POLITICAL OBSERVER V. MATVEYEV, IN WHICH THE AUTHOR DISCUSSED ISRAEL'S CALL FOR A RECONVENED GENEVA MEPC WITHOUT THE PLO. MATVEYEV CONTENDS THAT THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IS CENTRAL TO ANY SETTLEMENT, SO ISRAEL IS THEREFORE ESSENTIALLY REJECTING GENEVA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MOSCOW 00401 121940Z

ITSELF AS WELL AS THE UNGA RESOLUTIONS ON PALESTINE. MAYVEYEV ADDS THAT THE SOVIET UNION CONSIDERS GENEVA AS THE "MOST EFFECTIVE" MEANS TO A SETTLEMENT, BUT HE INSISTS THAT THE PLO MUST PARTICIPATE. HE STRESSED THE NEED FOR AN OVERALL SOLUTION RATHER THAN SEPARATE AGREEMENTS, AND HE HITS HARD AT PERCEIVED ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE.

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